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ILLINOIS DAY CELEBRATION

FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS

By
WILLIAM CHAUNCY LANGDON

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UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS

By
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Urbana-Champaign
Illinois
1917

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THE PERSONS OF THE
CELEBRATION

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

THE DEANS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1818:

GOVERNOR NINIAN EDWARDS

GOVERNOR SHADRACH BOND

PIERRE MENARD

NATHANIEL POPE

JESSE B. THOMAS

EDWARD COLES

ELIAS KENT KANE

DANIEL POPE COOK

JOHN MCLEAN

AMERICA

ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS DAY CELEBRATION

FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS

On the Platform of the Auditorium of the University of Illinois is raised a high dais, on which are two seats, one a little lower than the other. In front at either side are groups of seats. Steps go down from the Platform to the central aisle.

The Music plays a Processional March. From one side there enter the President and Deans of the University of Illinois in their academic caps, gowns and hoods. From the other side there enter a group representing Governor Ninian Edwards, Governor Shadrach Bond, and other leaders of the Illinois Constitutional Convention of 1818. They go to their seats on either side at the front, and sit down. When the Processional March comes to an end, the President of the University rises.

PRESIDENT: Men, Women of the University,
My fellow-members of the Faculty,
And Students in these various Colleges:—

This is the day whereon the sovereign State
Of Illinois was born. December third,
Eighteen-eighteen, the Senate cast its vote
Without division granting finally
The fair petition of our fathers for
Admission to the Union of the States.

Wherefore this day by law is duly held
In honor and in grateful memory,
And I today as President have called
The University of Illinois
In worthy Convocation, fittingly
To celebrate the admission of the State.

As specially his high occasion brings
Together here the present and the past,
So those who laid the State's foundations sure
Are here in those who led our fathers then,
In Ninian Edwards, Territorial Governor,
In Shadrach Bond, first Governor of the State,
In Pierre Menard and in Nathaniel Pope,
His nephew, Daniel Cook, and E. K. Kane,
In Edward Coles, McLean and Thomas,—men
Who, though they builded better than they knew,
Looked far into the future as they worked,—
As also in our day, God grant, do we!

*The President of the University resumes his seat and
Governor Ninian Edwards rises.*

EDWARDS: As when we came, keen pioneers, from out
The tangled wilderness, from out the dark
Dense wooded swamp, through which we had cut our
way,
Into the open prairie and the sun,—
So was it when we came at last from out
The territorial status and became
A State. In our own hands our destinies!

No danger lurked which we might not forefend.
The open grassy fields stretched mile on mile
Before us till our view was lost to sight
Far off in distant years. These prairies were
The State of Illinois, and over all
The deep blue shining sky of Heaven!

My friends here with me were among the men
Who then so boldly wisely did their part
In organizing this State government
And in securing its admission as
A State. Nathaniel Pope, our Delegate
In Congress, in the first month of the year
Presented our petition in the House.
On April eighteenth the Enabling Act
Was signed. Therein two clauses specially
Worked for the great upbuilding and the power
Of the future Commonwealth. The first one gave
The State some fifty miles of shore upon
Lake Michigan, thus making possible her port
And intimate relations with the North,
To match the commerce that the Mississippi
Swept along its flood of waters toward
The South. The second clause provided well
For making roads to lead into the State;
So should the immigration come straight through
And not be hindered by the forest tracts
That lay forbiddingly across the pathways
From the east. Then too still other clauses gave,
According to the noble precedent
Of other States, endowment for the Schools,
And for a public University,
In final consequence whereof these walls
Afford us shelter now, and serve the great
Unfathomable destinies to which
God leads the State.

Pursuant to this Act,
We met in August at Kaskaskia
To draft a Constitution for our State,

And organized with Thomas in the Chair.
Most of us were farmers, settlers, men
Of practical experience but not
Of legal learning. But Elias Kane
Though young was learned in the law, and he
Did most to guide and codify our work.

Thereunder was elected Shadrach Bond
First Governor of the State of Illinois,
And Pierre Menard Lieutenant Governor,
While Jesse Thomas to the Senate went
With me, and John McLean received the vote
For Congress. There he put the measure through
Admitting Illinois, and James Monroe,
As President, affixed his signature
To that foundation stone of Illinois
The day the Senate voted to concur,
December third, eighteen-eighteen.

As Governor Edwards finishes his recounting of the early days, the President of the University again rises.

PRESIDENT: Such the beginnings. Now our State maintains
Imperial her position on the Lakes
And on the prairies of the Middle West!
The second city of the Nation hers;
The central market of the continent!
The mighty Mississippi highway binds
In mutual interest Northern wheat and corn
With Southern cotton, sugar, lumber, rice;
While long transcontinental railroad lines
Unite Atlantic and Pacific coasts!

Thus from her central vantage-point the State
Of Illinois has still looked forth to find
Her onward way. So has she specially
Been favored as America has grown.
To Illinois all her preeminence

America has given, and Illinois
Full service has in loyal love returned.
The century gives way to other years,
But thus forever shall it be. So now
In this commemoration of the State,
Oh may that glorious spirit be with us
Which growing mightily through all the years
Has nursed our growth, as men, and as a State,
The eagle-crested, star-crowned, golden one
For whom we pray,—America!

The Music plays THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER. All rise. Down the central aisle comes the figure of America, escorted by soldiers of the Brigade of the University of Illinois. She is robed in white, with a golden girdle and a golden liberty cap. She carries the American Flag in her right hand and wears the Shield of the United States on her left shoulder. She goes up the steps onto the Platform and on up the steps of the dais, taking her place in front of the higher seat. Her escorts stand on either side at the foot of the dais. At the close of the national air Governor Edwards and the President of the University greet her in tribute for the present and for the past.

EDWARDS: Hail! Dream of all our early strivings! Hail

PRESIDENT: Hail! Inspiration of the common hope
Wherein we guard and guide the good of all!

The Music again plays and the Convocation joins in singing two stanzas of

AMERICA

My County! 'Tis of thee,
Sweet land of Liberty,
Of thee I sing!
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the Pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side
Let Freedom ring!

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of Liberty,
To Thee we sing!
Long may our land be bright
With Freedom's holy light!
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!

At the close of the hymn the people resume their seats.

AMERICA: Together all the People, north and south,
From ocean, east and west, to ocean join,
And all the generations too unite
In praise and prayer before the Great White Throne
Of Him Whose dearest Law is Liberty!
Behold, an hundred years ago your prayer
Was Liberty! An hundred years have passed,
Your praise is Freedom! So eternally
Do praise and prayer commingled rise to Heaven,
And so eternally His Spirit rules!

Then may the God of Freedom bless and keep
The State of Illinois, and all the States,
And all the Nations of the Earth. Amen!

America sits down and addresses all the people assembled before her.

AMERICA: Remember the creation of your State
And call to mind the meaning of those days!
Read o'er the instruments whereby was made
Your government an hundred years ago!

Nathaniel Pope steps forward and reads from the Enabling Act of 1818.

POPE: From The Enabling Act of April 18, 1818:—"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the inhabitants of the territory of Illinois be, and they are hereby, authorized to form for themselves a constitution and State government, and to assume such name as they shall deem proper; and the said State, when formed, shall be admitted into the Union upon the same footing with the original States, in all respects whatever."

Elias Kent Kane then steps forward and reads from the Constitution of Illinois, 1818.

KANE: From the first Constitution of the State of Illinois, 1818. "The people of the Illinois Territory, having the right of admission into the General Government as a member of the Union, consistent with the Constitution of the United States, the Ordinance of Congress of 1787, and the law of Congress approved April 18, 1818, . . . in order to establish justice, promote the welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to themselves and their posterity, do, by their representatives in convention, ordain and establish the following constitution or form of government; and do mutually agree with each other to form themselves into a free and independent State, by the name of the State of Illinois.

Article I, Section 1. The powers of the government of the State of Illinois shall be divided into three distinct departments, and each of them confided to a separate body of magistracy, to wit: Those which are legislative, to one; those which are executive to another; and those which are judiciary, to another.

Article VIII. That the general, great, and essential principles of liberty and free government may be recognized and unalterably established, we declare:

"Section 1. That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent and indefeasible rights; among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, and of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property and reputation, and of pursuing their own happiness.

“Section 2. That all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness.

“Section 3. That all men have a natural and inalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences.”

AMERICA: Now bring her hither whom you choose to stand
As figure of the State of Illinois.

Governor Edwards and Governor Bond go to meet the State of Illinois and escort her to America. Illinois stands before America facing her. She is robed in a single garment of pale gold. The Music plays all through the ceremony of investiture. America at first addresses Illinois, and then the People.

AMERICA: All simply clad in native gold you come,
The color of your leagues of ripened corn.
If this be she whom you have chosen for
Your State, upraise your arms; acclaim her.

ALL THE PEOPLE: Hail!

AMERICA: Invest her with the garment of her Statehood;
Robe her in the blue of sovereignty!

An overvesture of blue velvet is brought and placed upon the State of Illinois. Upon the breast is a golden I.

AMERICA: Upon her shoulders cast the ample cloak
Of federal protection, federal right.

A long flowing cloak of blue is brought and affixed to her shoulders.

AMERICA: Give her the Flag into her hand; the Shield.

The State Flag is brought and given to Illinois; also the State Shield. America then rises in her place, giving her Flag and her Shield to two of the soldiers, and addresses Illinois.

AMERICA: Thus, Illinois, in the name of American People I receive you. I create you a State by your chosen name of Illinois. I place the Star of Statehood on your forehead and I admit you to the Union of the United States.

With the words, America places a golden wreath upon Illinois' head bearing a star. Then Governor Edwards and the President of the University turn Illinois around to the People, and the Music swelling forth fortissimo all the people join in singing three stanzas of the State Song,

ILLINOIS

By thy rivers gently flowing, Illinois, Illinois,
O'er thy prairies verdant growing, Illinois, Illinois,
Comes an echo on the breeze,
Rustling through the leafy trees,
And its mellow tones are these, Illinois, Illinois!

Thou didst hear thy country calling, Illinois, Illinois,
Mid the din of war appalling, Illinois, Illinois,
Then thy courage and thy will
Rose each heart to fire and thrill,
Brave and loyal thou art still, Illinois, Illinois!

While thy glory we are singing, Illinois, Illinois,
Loyal homage to thee bringing, Illinois, Illinois,
Let us praise His holy name,
Through whose might all good we claim,
Who has wrought thy wondrous fame Illinois, Illinois!

(C. M. Chamberlain and F. M. Steele.)

At the end of the State Song America resumes her seat, Illinois takes her seat on the dais beside America and all the people sit down. Then the President of the University delivers an address, or introduces the Speaker of the Day. After the Address, there is sung:—

ON FOREVER, ILLINOIS!

Illinois! Above the prairie
High thine eagle wings his flight,
Watching, vigilant and wary,
Over human toil and right!
Eagle-pinioned, on with joy!
On forever, Illinois!
Through the storm sweep on with joy!
On forever, Illinois!

Illinois! The times are calling
Souls that fear no sacrifice!
Men for Liberty are falling;
Will your sons refuse the price?
Scorning danger, on with joy!
On forever, Illinois!
On through death! On, on with joy!
On forever, Illinois!

Illinois! Thy meed of glory
That all men, till years are dust,
Shall thy sons, high famed in story,
Silent, heaven-borne eagles, trust!
On through death! On, on with joy!
On forever, Illinois!
Eagle-pinioned, on with joy!
On forever, Illinois!

The Benediction is then pronounced by the President of the University.

PRESIDENT: Now may He Who breathes the breath of life into all men breathe His Spirit into the State of Illinois, and into the United States of America, and into All the Peoples of the Earth, inspiring them to do His Holy Will under the perfect Law of Liberty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Music plays a Recessional March. America and Illinois rise from their seats and descend the steps of the dais. Then, preceded by the Members of the Constitutional Convention of 1818 and followed by the President and Deans of the University, they go out straight up the central aisle while the people of the Convocation stand in their places.

THE ILLINOIS DAY CELEBRATION

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

*was presented in the Auditorium, December 3, 1917, by the
Committee on Convocations, with the cooperation of the
Illinois Drama Federation*

THE PERSONS IN THE CELEBRATION

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

THE DEANS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, 1818:

GOVERNOR NINIAN EDWARDS	. . . . .	R. A. Bryant
GOVERNOR SHADRACH BOND	. . . . .	H. W. Gibson
NATHANIEL POPE	. . . . .	R. S. White
E. K. KANE	. . . . .	A. A. Dailey
JESSE B. THOMAS	. . . . .	George Salladin
PIERRE MENARD	. . . . .	J. H. Armstrong
DANIEL POPE COOK	. . . . .	Joel Greene
EDWARD COLES	. . . . .	Charles Fairman
JOHN MCLEAN	. . . . .	Newman Romero
AMERICA	. . . . .	Gertrude Sawyer
ILLINOIS	. . . . .	Lucille Peirson
ESCORT TO AMERICA AND THE COLORS, Arthur H. Bodenschatz, Rex R. Thompson, and Cadets		

THE MUSIC FOR THE CELEBRATION was composed by J. Lawrence Erb, F.A.G.O. The singing was led by the combined Glee Clubs of the University.

THE COSTUMES of America and Illinois were designed by Mrs. William Chauncy Langdon.

THE COMMITTEE ON ILLINOIS DAY CONVOCATION consisted of Daniel Kilham Dodge, *Chairman*; Dean Fanny C. Gates, Dr. Allene Gregory, Francis Keese Wynkoop Drury, and William Chauncy Langdon.

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